UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,599	06/29/2001	Marcos Nogueira Novaes	YOR920010318US1	6500

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2154	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/893,599	NOVAES, MARCOS NOGUEIRA
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mohammad A Siddiqi	2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>08 July 2004</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-326 (Rev. 1-04)   **Office Action Summary**   Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20040927

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-36 are presented for the examination

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35

U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in

this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3.   Claims 1-5, 18-22, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as

being anticipated by Egger et al. (6,233,571) (hereinafter Egger).

4.   As per claims 1 and 34, Egger discloses a collaborative Web research

method, comprising (col 48, lines 20-45):

organizing a plurality of documents (col 12, lines 40-45) in a

N-dimensional space (col 18, lines 32-40) according to a collection of subject

word (col 5, lines 45-48); and

based on said organizing (col 12, lines 40-45), retrieving (col 5, lines 49-51), by a user (col 5, lines 55-58, and col 6, lines 25-27), said documents organized (col 12, lines 40-45) in said N-dimensional space (col 18, lines 32-40) according to said collection of subject words (col 16, lines 4-12).

5.　　As per claim 18 Egger discloses, a collaborative Web portal, comprising:

a tracker for tracking a user's bookmarks in accessing pages in a network (col 47, lines 37-57, bookmark is an area of interest relevant document), and for tracking preferences of said user;

a unit for determining a closeness (col 50, lines 24-27), in research between users (col 50, lines 4-27); and

a notifier for notifying (col 50, lines 28-49, displaying information is way of notifying to the user), based on said closeness (col 50, lines 24-27), at least one other user of said user's bookmarks (col 47, lines 37-57, bookmark is an area of interest relevant document), said at least one other user having a similar interest to that of said user based on a distance function (col 47, lines 46-67 and col 16, lines 4-48).

6.　　As per claims 2 and 19, Egger discloses detecting that a researcher is

retrieving documents which are considered related (col 5, lines 45-48)

according to a distance function (col 16, lines 4-48).

7.   As per claims 3 and 20, Egger discloses enabling said user to find

other researchers which are researching in a same research area (fig 5B, col

28, lines 46-67).

8.   As per claims 4 and 21, Egger discloses enabling said user to find said

researcher which is researching in a same research area (col 35, lines 36-

41).

9.   As per claims 5 and 22, Egger discloses wherein said distance function

is expressed as an equation:

$S(P1,P2)=D(P1,P2)-T(p1,p2)$

where S is a non-Euclidean distance of two points pl and p2 in hyperspace,

and D is a Euclidean distance between the point p 1 and the point p2, given

by

$D(P1, _P2) = $ Square root of (Sd (P1d − P2d) square

wherein T is a Trail estimate between the point pl and the point p2, and

wherein the estimate S is used in a collaborative Web portal to estimate a

closeness between first and second users (col 18, lines 32-45).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis

for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or
> described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject
> matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a
> whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having
> ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be
> negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

11.   Claims 6-17, 23-33, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

as being unpatentable over Egger et al. (6,233,571) (hereinafter Egger) in

view of Anupam et al. (5,991,796) (hereinafter Anupam).

12.   As per claims 6, 23, and 36, Egger discloses a Web-based collaborative

research method (col 48, lines 20-45), comprising:

determining coordinates for pages (col 6, lines 6-25) which are

retrieved by a first user and mapping the coordinates (col 28, lines 2-5) into

a space (col 6, lines 6–50); and

based on said coordinates (col 36, lines 18-40) of said pages (col 48,

lines 19-45), closeness of a research (col 48, lines 63-67 and col 5, lines 38-

48).

Egger is silent about informing a second user by first user.

However, Anupam discloses informing a second user by first user (fig

1, col 1, lines 46-67 and col 2, lines 1-8).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Anupam with Egger because it would provide user friendly computerized, web enabled, and an intelligent research tool that emulates human methods of research.

13.   As per claims 7 and 24, Egger is silent about the said informing is performed automatically by a server, said first and second users being informed of pages retrieved by one another.

However, Anupam discloses informing is performed automatically by a server, said first and second users being informed of pages retrieved by one another (fig 1, col 2, lines 25-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Anupam with Egger because it would provide user friendly computerized, web enabled, and an intelligent research tool that emulates human methods of research.

14.   As per claims 8 and 25, Egger discloses wherein an intersection of research by said first and second users is graphically displayed to said first and second users (col 5, lines 37-48).

15.   AS per claims 9 and 26, Egger discloses providing the first user with a

trail of research of said second user (col 35, lines 25-36).

16.   As per claims 10 and 27, Egger discloses trail of research comprises a

predetermined sequence of bookmarks leading said first user to a specific

point in cyberspace (col 48, lines 46-48).

17.   As per claims 11 and 28, Egger discloses a collaborative logging-in (fig

4B element 260) to research portal (col 48, lines 19—26); and selecting an

existing research session (col 48, lines 63-67 and col 49 lines 1-11),

selecting the session can be done by clicking link), or creating a new

research session (col 49, lines 12-36).

18.   As per claims 12 and 29, Egger discloses on said user side (col 48,

lines 39-42),

        retrieving a first data block (fig 4B, col 24, lines 49-51);

        receiving data blocks of other users having a predetermined closeness

(col 4B, lines 23-67); and

        receiving an index of other data blocks relevant to the user's research

(col 4B, lines 23-67).

19.   As per claims 13 and 30, Egger discloses on a server side, said method further comprises: after the logging-in by the user (Fig 4B, element 260), sending to the user a list of previously created research sessions (fig 4B, col 23-67); and after the retrieving by the user (fig 4B, col 23-67), adding spatial coordinates of the first data block to a collection of vertices to a current research session (col 6, lines 6-25).

20.   As per claims 14 and 31, Egger discloses wherein, on said server side, said method further comprises: recalculating areas occupied by the vertices of the current research session (col 6, lines 6-25); and calculating an intersection of the current research session with research sessions created by other users (col 6, lines 6-25).

21.   As per claims 15 and 32, Egger discloses on said server side, said method further comprises: determining whether any research sessions intersect (col 6, lines 6-25); and if any research sessions intersect (col 6, lines 6-25), then notifying users that created the intersecting sessions (col 6, lines 6-67).

22.   As per claims 16 and 33, Egger discloses on said server side, said method further comprises: sending the users of the intersecting sessions a

geometry of the other intersecting sessions (col 6, lines 6-67).

23.   As per claims 17 and 35, Egger discloses a method of collaborative network searching, comprising:

tracking a plurality of users' accessing of pages in a network (col 3, lines 24-30 and col 48, lines 13-45); and based on a closeness of at least first and second users (col 48, lines 46-67),

Egger is silent about notifying said first and second users of one another's accessing of said pages. However, Anupam discloses notifying said first and second users of one another's accessing of said pages (fig 1, col 1, lines 46-67 and col 2, lines 1-8).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Anupam with Egger because it would provide user friendly computerized, web enabled, and an intelligent research tool that emulates human methods of research.

Response to Arguments

24.   Applicant's arguments filed 07/08/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive, therefore rejections to claims 1-36 is maintained.

25.   In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "without traversing a link") are not recited in the rejected claim (1, 18, and 34). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

26.   In response to applicant's argument "Egger clearly does not discloses or suggest at least a notifier for notifying", page 17, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Egger teaches a notifier for notifying (User interface provides an interactive notification to the users by displaying result, thus user interface is a notifier, col 3, lines 49-54 and col 50, lines 28-49), based on said closeness (col 50, lines 24-27), at least one other user of said user's bookmarks (col 47, lines 37-57, bookmark is an area of interest relevant document), said at least one other user having a similar interest to that of said user based on a distance function (col 47, lines 46-67 and col 16, lines 4-48).

27.   In response to applicant's argument "neither Egger nor Anupam discloses", page 20, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Egger teaches

determining coordinates for pages (algorithm is used to determine coordinates, col 6, lines 15-25) which are retrieved by a first user and mapping the coordinates into a space (col 6, lines 6-50); and

based on said coordinates (col 36, lines 18-40) of said pages (col 48, lines 19-45), closeness of a research (col 7, lines 54—67, col 48, lines 63-67 and col 5, lines 38-48).

Anupam discloses informing a second user by first user (surrogate, 153,173, fig 1, col 1, lines 66-67 and col 2, lines 1-8).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine the teaching Egger with Anupam because Anupam's use of creating surrogate for the user and inter surrogate communication would provide Egger's system user friendly computerized, web enabled, and an intelligent research tool that emulates human methods of research.

Conclusion

28. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a
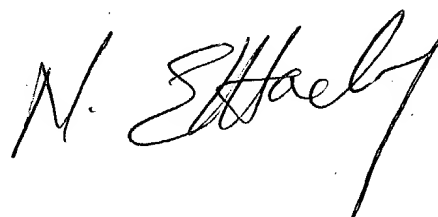
first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action

and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-

MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will

expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee

pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the

advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply

expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications

from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad A Siddiqi whose

telephone number is (703) 305-0353. The examiner can normally be

reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (703)305-8498.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or

proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MAS